

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA
Criminal No. 23-160 (NEB)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

PLEA AGREEMENT

MARQUES WALKER,
A/K/A Q, A/K/A QUEZ (27),

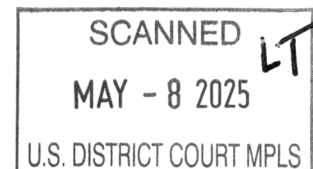
Defendant.

The United States of America and **MARQUES WALKER** (hereinafter referred to as “the defendant”) agree to resolve this case on the terms and conditions that follow. This plea agreement binds only the defendant and the United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Minnesota and the Violent Crime and Racketeering Section of the United States Department of Justice. This agreement does not bind any other United States Attorney’s Office or any other federal or state agency.

I. DISPOSITION OF CHARGES AND WAIVER OF TRIAL RIGHTS

1. **Guilty Plea.** The defendant knowingly and voluntarily agrees to plead guilty to the following charge as set forth in the Third Superseding Indictment filed on February 12, 2025, ECF No. 1708:

COUNT THREE: Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A), and 846.



The Government agrees to move to dismiss the remaining count(s) against the defendant at sentencing. ECF No. 1708.

2. **Pretrial Motions.** The defendant understands and agrees that the defendant has certain rights to file pre-trial motions in this case. As part of this plea agreement, and based upon the concessions of the United States within this plea agreement, the defendant knowingly, willingly, and voluntarily gives up the right to file pre-trial motions in this case.

3. **Waiver of Trial Rights.** The defendant acknowledges that he has been advised and understands that by entering a plea of guilty he is waiving – that is, giving up – certain rights guaranteed to all defendants by the laws and the Constitution of the United States. Specifically, the defendant is giving up:

- a. The right to proceed to trial by jury on all charges, or to a trial by a judge if the defendant and the United States both agree;
- b. The right to confront the witnesses against the defendant at such a trial, and to cross-examine them;
- c. The right to remain silent at such a trial, with assurance that his silence could not be used against him in any way;
- d. The right to testify in his own defense at such a trial if he so chooses;
- e. The right to compel witnesses to appear at such a trial and testify on the defendant's behalf; and
- f. The right to have the assistance of an attorney at all stages of such trial proceedings.

4. **Additional Consequences.** The defendant understands that as a result of his conviction, he could experience additional consequences, such as the loss of the right to carry firearms, the right to vote, and the right to hold public office.

5. **Additional Charges.** The United States agrees not to bring any additional charges against the defendant arising out of the defendant's participation in conduct described in the agreed-upon factual basis for this Plea Agreement, to the extent that the defendant has disclosed such participation to the United States Attorney's Office – District of Minnesota and the Violent Crime and Racketeering Section of the United States Department of Justice (hereinafter collectively referred to as "this Office") as of the date of this Agreement.

II. ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE

6. COUNT THREE: The elements of Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A), and 846, are:

First, that two or two or more persons reached an agreement or came to understanding to distribute controlled substances;

Second, that the defendant voluntarily and intentionally joined in the agreement or understanding, either at the time it was first reached or some later time while it was still in effect;

Third, at the time the defendant joined in the agreement or understanding, he know the purpose of the agreement or understanding; and

Fourth, the conspiracy involved at least 4 kilograms but less than 12 kilograms of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide), commonly known as fentanyl.

III. FACTS SUPPORTING GUILTY PLEA

7. The defendant will plead guilty because he is, in fact and under the law, guilty of the crimes charged.

8. The defendant acknowledges that if he elected to go to trial instead of pleading guilty, the United States could prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The defendant further acknowledges that his admissions and declarations of fact set forth below satisfy every element of the charged offenses.

9. The defendant waives any potential future claim that the facts he admitted in this Plea Agreement were insufficient to satisfy the elements of the charged offense.

10. The defendant understands, acknowledges, and agrees that the facts set forth below are only those necessary to support a plea of guilty to the charge described in this agreement and to establish the Sentencing Guidelines factors set forth in Section VI below, and that they do not capture the entirety of his conduct, criminal or otherwise, in this case. The defendant admits and declares under penalty of perjury that the facts set forth below are true and correct:

11. From on or about 2021, through the present, in the District of Minnesota, defendant **WALKER** and his codefendants, including others known and

unknown, conspired to distribute controlled substances, including (N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide), commonly known as fentanyl.

12. On or about March 30, 2022, **WALKER** placed several FaceTime and phone calls to an Arizona supplier of fentanyl pills ("Arizona Supplier"). That same day, Arizona Supplier used his phone number to track a U.S. Postal Service ("USPS") parcel that was shipped from a business in Phoenix ("Phoenix Business") to Shine Beauty in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. The USPS parcel was intercepted by law enforcement and contained approximately 3 kilograms of fentanyl pills.

13. On or about January 5, 2022, to on or about April 19, 2022, **WALKER** and others used an ATM in Roseville, Minnesota to deposit over \$128,000 in U.S. Currency into an account belonging to Arizona Supplier as payment for fentanyl pills.

14. On or about April 25, 2022, **WALKER** placed numerous FaceTime calls to a coconspirator.

15. On or about April 26, 2022, a coconspirator received a USPS parcel from the Phoenix Business. After receiving the parcel, the coconspirator was stopped by law enforcement and found to be in possession of 2.1 kilograms of fentanyl pills.

16. Prior to being arrested, a coconspirator texted Arizona Supplier "they got me f**k" and "obd call q." "Q" is a nickname for **WALKER**. Immediately after, Arizona Supplier called **WALKER**.

17. **WALKER** agrees that he took part in the conspiracy by supplying fentanyl pills to others for re-sale. **WALKER** agrees that as part of this conspiracy

he is responsible for the distribution of at least 4 kilograms but less than 12 kilograms of fentanyl.

IV. COLLATERAL USE OF FACTUAL ADMISSIONS

18. The facts set forth in Section III of this Plea Agreement shall be admissible against the defendant at sentencing for any purpose. If the defendant does not plead guilty or withdraws his guilty plea, the facts set forth in Section III of this Plea Agreement shall be admissible at any proceeding, including a trial, for impeaching or for rebutting any evidence, argument, or representation offered by or on the defendant's behalf. The defendant expressly waives all rights under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11(f) and Fed. R. Evid. 410 regarding the use of the facts set forth in Section III of this Plea Agreement.

V. APPLICATION OF SENTENCING GUIDELINES PROVISIONS

19. COUNT THREE: Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances

a. Base Offense Level	34
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[Drug Trafficking U.S.S.G. § 2D1.1(c)(1)(3)]

Total Offense Level	34
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The parties agree that, other than credit for acceptance of responsibility and the application of U.S.S.G. § 2D1.1(b)(1), no other Guidelines adjustments apply to the determination of the total offense level.

20. Reduction of Offense Level for Acceptance of Responsibility.

Under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(a), the United States will recommend that the defendant receive a two-level downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility unless he: (a) fails to truthfully admit facts establishing a factual basis for the guilty plea when he enters the plea; (b) fails to truthfully admit facts establishing the amount of restitution owed when he enters his guilty plea; (c) fails to truthfully admit facts establishing the forfeiture allegations when he enters his guilty plea; (d) provides false or misleading information to the United States, the Court, Pretrial Services, or the Probation Office; (e) denies involvement in the offense or provides conflicting statements regarding his involvement or falsely denies or frivolously contests conduct relevant to the offense; (f) attempts to withdraw his guilty plea; (g) commits or attempts to commit any crime; (h) fails to appear in court; (i) violates his conditions of pretrial release; or (j) commits any act which could result in the United States seeking an obstruction of justice enhancement within the meaning of U.S.S.G. § 3C1.1.

Under U.S.S.G. § 3E1.1(b), if the Court determines that the Defendant's total offense level, before operation of § 3E1.1(a), is 16 or higher, and if the United States recommends a two-level downward adjustment pursuant to the preceding paragraph, the United States will move for an additional one-level downward adjustment for acceptance of responsibility before sentencing because the defendant communicated his decision to plead guilty in a timely manner that enabled the United States to avoid preparing for trial and to efficiently allocate its resources.

21. **Criminal History Category.** The defendant acknowledges that the Court may base his sentence in part on the defendant's criminal record or criminal history. The Court will determine the defendant's Criminal History Category under the Sentencing Guidelines, and the Criminal History Category could result in an increase in the advisory guideline range.

22. **Relevant Conduct.** The Court may consider any counts dismissed under this Plea Agreement and all other relevant conduct, whether charged or uncharged, in determining the applicable Sentencing Guidelines range and whether to depart or vary from that range.

23. **Additional Sentencing Information.** The stipulated Sentencing Guidelines calculations are based on information now known to the parties. The parties may provide additional information to the United States Probation Office and the Court regarding the nature, scope, and extent of the defendant's criminal conduct and any aggravating or mitigating facts or circumstances. Good faith efforts to provide truthful information or to correct factual misstatements shall not be grounds for the defendant to withdraw his guilty plea.

The defendant acknowledges that the United States Probation Office may calculate the Sentencing Guidelines differently and may rely on additional information it obtains through its investigation. The defendant also acknowledges that the Court may rely on this and other additional information as it calculates the Sentencing Guidelines range and makes other sentencing determinations, and the

Court's reliance on such information shall not be grounds for the defendant to withdraw his guilty plea.

VI. APPLICATION OF SENTENCING STATUTES

24. Maximum Penalty.

Count Three. The maximum penalty for Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Substances, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A), and 846, is life in prison, a fine not to exceed \$10,000,000 or twice any pecuniary gain to the defendant or loss to the victim(s), or both. **The defendant understands that there is a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years.**

25. Factors Under 18 U.S.C. § 3553. The Court must consider the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) in determining the defendant's sentence. However, the statutory maximum sentence and the 10-year statutory minimum sentence limit the Court's discretion in determining the defendant's sentence.

26. Parole Abolished. The defendant acknowledges that his prison sentence cannot be shortened by early release on parole because parole has been abolished.

27. Supervised Release. In addition to imprisonment and a fine, the defendant will be subject to a term of supervised release of at least 5 years as to Count Three. The defendant understands that if he were to violate any condition of supervised release while on supervised release, the Court could revoke his supervised release, and he could be sentenced to an additional term of imprisonment up to the statutory maximum set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3583(e)(3). *See* USSG §§ 7B1.4,

7B1.5. The defendant also understands that as part of any revocation, the Court may include a requirement that he be placed on an additional term of supervised release after imprisonment, as set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3583(h).

28. **Special Assessment.** The defendant agrees to pay a one-hundred dollar (\$100.00) special assessment per count of conviction at the time of sentencing.

29. **Additional Costs.** The defendant is required to pay for the costs of imprisonment, probation, and supervised release, including the costs for electronic monitoring of home detention, unless the defendant establishes that the defendant does not have the ability to pay such costs, in which case the Court may impose an alternative sanction such as community service.

VII. POSITIONS REGARDING SENTENCE

30. The parties understand that the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory and their application is a matter that falls solely within the Court's discretion. The Court will make its own determination regarding the applicable Guidelines factors and the applicable criminal history category. The Court may also depart from the applicable Guidelines range. If the Court or the Probation Office determines that the applicable guideline calculations or the defendant's criminal history category is different from that stated herein, the parties may not withdraw from this agreement, and the defendant will be sentenced pursuant to the Court's determinations.

31. The defendant is free to seek any variance pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3553 or U.S.S.G. § 4A1.3, and the parties are free to oppose any departures, adjustments, or variances. The defendant acknowledges that the Court does not have to follow the

recommendation of either party, and if the Court does not accept the sentencing recommendation of the parties, the defendant will have no right to withdraw his guilty plea.

VIII. THE DEFENDANT'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND WAIVERS

32. Plea Agreement and Decision to Plead Guilty. The defendant acknowledges that:

- a. He has read this Plea Agreement and understands its terms and conditions;
- b. He has had adequate time to discuss this case, the evidence, and this Plea Agreement with his attorney;
- c. He has discussed the terms of this Plea Agreement with his attorney;
- d. The representations contained in this Plea Agreement are true and correct, including the facts set forth in Section III; and
- e. He was not under the influence of any alcohol, drug, or medicine that would impair his ability to understand the Agreement when he considered signing this Plea Agreement and when he signed it.

The defendant understands that he alone decides whether to plead guilty or go to trial, and he acknowledges that he has decided to enter his guilty plea knowing of the charges brought against him, his possible defenses, and the benefits and possible detriments of proceeding to trial. The defendant also acknowledges that he

decided to plead guilty voluntarily and that no one coerced or threatened him to enter into this Plea Agreement.

33. **Waiver of Appeal and Collateral Attack.** The defendant knowingly and expressly waives: (a) the right to appeal any sentence imposed within or below the applicable Sentencing Guideline range as determined by the Court; (b) the right to appeal the manner in which the Court determined that sentence on the grounds set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3742; and (c) the right to appeal any other non-jurisdictional aspect of the conviction or sentence, including the supervised release term and its conditions, and any order of restitution or forfeiture.

The defendant also knowingly and expressly waives all collateral challenges, including any claims under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, to his conviction, sentence, and the procedure by which the Court adjudicated guilt and imposed sentence, except non-waivable claims of ineffective assistance of counsel.

The defendant reserves only the right to appeal any portion of the sentence that is an upward departure or variance from the sentencing guideline range determined by the Court.

The defendant acknowledges that the United States is not obligated or required to preserve any evidence obtained in the investigation of this case.

34. **Forfeiture.** The defendant agrees to forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(a), all property constituting, or derived from, proceeds obtained from Count Three of the Third Superseding Indictment. The United States reserves the right to seek the forfeiture of additional

property from the defendant or to seek the forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p).

The United States reserves its right to seek a money judgment forfeiture, to forfeit substitute assets, and to forfeit additional directly forfeitable property.

The defendant agrees that the United States may, at its option, forfeit such property through civil, criminal or administrative proceedings, waives any deadline or statute of limitations for the initiation of any such proceedings, and abandons any interest he may have in the property. The defendant waives all statutory and constitutional defenses to the forfeiture and waives any right to contest or challenge (including direct appeal, habeas corpus, or any other means) such forfeiture on any grounds. To the extent the defendant has sought remission or otherwise challenged the forfeiture of the above-described property, he withdraws any such challenges.

35. **FOIA Requests.** The defendant waives all rights to obtain, directly or through others, information about the investigation and prosecution of this case under the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552, 552A.

36. **Restitution.** The defendant understands and agrees that the Mandatory Victim Restitution Act, 18 U.S.C. §3663A, applies and that the Court is required to order Defendant to make restitution to the victim(s) of his crimes. The exact amount of restitution owed by the Defendant will be determined at a later date.

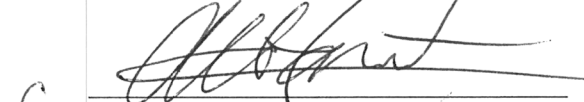
IX. ADDITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS


No promises, agreements or conditions other than those set forth in this agreement have been made or implied by the defendant, the defendant's attorney, or the United States, and no additional promises, agreements or conditions shall have any force or effect unless set forth in writing and signed by all parties or confirmed on the record before the Court.

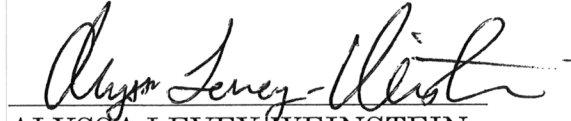
LISA D. KIRKPATRICK
Acting United States Attorney

DATE: 5/07/2025



THOMAS CALHOUN-LOPEZ
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for 
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FOR 
BRIAN W. LYNCH
Trial Attorney, Violent Crime and Racketeering
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Trial Attorney, Violent Crime and Racketeering
Section

DATE: 5/07/2025


MARQUES WALKER
Defendant

DATE: 5/7/25



KEVIN RIACH
Counsel for Defendant **WALKER**